

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/JP2003/008302



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference FWA3-15 | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/JP2003/008302 | International filing date (day/month/year) 30 June 2003 (30.06.2003) | Priority date (day/month/year) 28 June 2002 (28.06.2002) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N 7/173 | | |
| Applicant SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 9 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|---|--|
| Date of submission of the demand 21 November 2003 (21.11.2003) | Date of completion of this report 23 August 2004 (23.08.2004) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/008302

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1,2,5-14, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 3,4,4/1,4/2, filed with the letter of 10 May 2004 (10.05.2004)
- ☒ the claims:
 pages 4,5, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 1,2,6-10, filed with the letter of 10 May 2004 (10.05.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 2/14-14/14, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 1/14, filed with the letter of 10 May 2004 (10.05.2004)
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, Nos. 3
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/08302

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1, 2, 4-10 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 6-10 | YES |
| | Claims | 1, 2, 4, 5 | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1, 2, 4-10 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP, 2000-165831, A (NEC Corp.), 16 June, 2000 (16.06.00), all pages, all drawings
 Document 2: JP, 9-200715, A (Canon Inc.), 31 July, 1997 (31.07.97), all pages, all drawings
 Document 3: JP, 2001-8232, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 12 January, 2001 (12.01.01), all pages, all drawings

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5

Document 1 cited in the ISR and the written opinion does not describe a technology whereby data of a plurality of images is selected from multi-perspective images from a plurality of viewpoints encoded and stored, based on the viewpoint information of requested information, and the needed image data is generated from it.

As, however, described in document 1 ([0016]-[0022]), in the constitution wherein data of a plurality of images is selected from among images taken with a plurality of cameras, based on the viewpoint information of requested information, and image data is generated from it, (1) whether images to be used for the synthesizing are stored in a server in advance could be decided as required by a person skilled in the art, (2) a person skilled in the art could easily store images to be used for the synthesizing in a server in advance, and (3) it is a commonly used technique for a person skilled in the art to encode images in storing them in a server to reduce the volume of stored data.

Documents 2 ([0029]-[0036]) and 3 ([0033]-[0039]) cited in the ISR describe (1) a technology whereby data of images selected based on the viewpoint information in a request of a client is encoded and transmitted to the client, and (2) a technology of adding control information to enable random access to data of images from each viewpoint, respectively. The subject matters of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of the descriptions of documents 1-3.

Claims 6-10

Neither (1) technologies of the image data transmission device whereby information to make 2-dimensional image data and 3-dimensional image data to be transmitted distinguishable from each other is added in the transmission, and whether the data received at clients is 2-dimensional image data or 3-dimensional image data is judged, nor (2) technologies of the image data receiving device whereby information to make received data recognizable as 2-dimensional image data or 3-dimensional image data is added, are described or suggested in any of documents 1-3 and the documents cited in the ISR.